



From The Director...

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"Restoring humanity to life"



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Executive Director

It's all in the language! One of the things we have to be watchful for is how misleading language is used to perpetuate the myth of mental illness. Rhetorical sleight of hand has been used even to discredit Thomas Szasz in his critique of the myth by claiming he said mental illness does not exist, and then refuting that claim by displaying people in varying forms of obvious distress. But Szasz never made that claim. He said "mental illness qu illness does not exist." [my emphasis]

(<https://www.psychotherapy.net/interview/thomas-szasz>) Just leaving out a few words has a

Dear ISEPP members and friends,

ISEPP's 20th Annual Conference: Mental Health: Considering Context in Human Suffering

[This year's conference](#) October 6-8 in Denver Colorado is fast approaching! [Register now](#). We are putting the finishing touches on a stellar lineup of speakers and workshops. Remember that newly joining ISEPP members will get a discounted conference rate and your membership will be good through 2018 (you won't receive EHPP or the ISEPP Bulletin until the 2018 issues). All current ISEPP members will receive the discounted rate. To get the discount, you can get the coupon code from [Robert Slicen](#) (201-664-2566) prior to registering. I also emailed the coupon code out several weeks ago to all members.

The ISEPP Inquiry

We are considering the possibility of producing on-site recordings for *The ISEPP*

huge effect on the meaning.

As Plato said, "Rhetoric is the art of ruling the minds of men" and the people we are battling are trying very hard to rule many minds. This is not a trivial or esoteric matter. It continues on a daily basis in plain sight and touches the minds of many. Just a cursory search of the National Institute of Mental Health website revealed these gems about one of the most common human problems:

"Depression...causes severe symptoms...."; "...people with only a few symptoms...may benefit from treatment of their 'subsyndromal'

depression...."; "...depression is caused by a combination of genetic, biological, environmental,

and psychological factors."; "Depression is now recognized as occurring in children and adolescents....";

"Depression...can co-occur with other serious medical illnesses....";

Antidepressants...may help improve the way your brain uses certain chemicals....";

"Sometimes people...stop taking the medication on their own, and the depression returns."; and "Advances in ECT...have made modern ECT safe and effective....".

Whereas I could argue each of these statements is nothing but a bold lie, a more lenient interpretation would be that they are examples of how rhetoric is used to give an impression of illness when no illness exists. Depression

Inquiry while at the conference in Denver. But before we set the plans in motion, I want to see if anyone is interested in being interviewed. We have done only a few recordings so far via Skype ([myself, Al Galves, and Ron Unger](#)) but I'd like to take advantage of this forum to allow ISEPP members to advertise their efforts at spreading ISEPP's message in various ways. So if you are interested and will be joining us in Denver, please contact our *Inquiry* moderator, [Michele Paiva](#) and let her know.

Call for Papers - Ethical Human Psychology and Psychiatry

We are issuing a [Call for Papers](#) for our peer-reviewed journal [Ethical Human Psychology and Psychiatry \(EHPP\)](#), published by Springer Publishing Company. EHPP offers a publication opportunity unlike other journals and is looking for high quality submissions focused on ethical, just, and humane contributions to society.

"Saving Psychiatry" - Dr. Joe's Blog

Don't miss Dr. Joe's blog: "[No One Cares About Crazy People](#)". Joe does a wonderful job of bringing us back to ISEPP's focus on humanity. He encourages us to understand schizophrenia, or any of the other labels for the emotionally troubled, by looking at the person and not the brain. Look at the person and that person's struggle to connect with others - to fit in. But according to Joe, "...there is no cure for being human...And to be human means being up against never wholly fitting in."

ISEPP's In The News

doesn't cause symptoms - "symptoms" create depression; "subsyndromal" depression just means no depression; regardless of genetic, biological, environmental, or psychological causes, there is no evidence that depression is pathological; was there a time when depression was not noticed in children?; of course people get depressed when they have serious medical illnesses (by the way, why do they use the term "medical illnesses" here?); the brain doesn't use chemicals and "antidepressants don't improve anything; when people stop taking "antidepressants", depression doesn't return, withdrawal symptoms happen; and ECT is barbaric, not safe and effective.

Join me in keeping an eye out for these snakes of language slithering around in the not so tall grass.

Take a look at [my In The News blog post](#) about a [recent study's claim in JAMA Pediatrics](#) that ADHD causes an increased risk of car accidents. I think this is a perfect example of how misleading language and misunderstanding of research methods can lead to false conclusions. These kinds of pronouncements in leading journals give the false impression that "mental disorders" are things that can cause other things, when in fact they are just tricks of language.

ISEPP Friendly Helping Professionals

We have recently updated our [listing of helping professionals](#) who agree with [ISEPP's principles and mission](#). If you would like to be listed here, please let me know. If you are already listed, please take the time to review your information and let me know if there are any corrections. It is helpful if you indicate the particular profession to which you belong.

As always, I ask that you all share this newsletter and other ISEPP information through your social networking sites. Also, make sure to visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. Feel free to contact me at docruby@me.com or 301-646-6022 if you have any questions or suggestions.

Best wishes,



Chuck

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